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U. S. Department of Agriculture



CYMBID

hardy orchids

Until recently, the Cymbidiums were largely the hobby of collectors, but, now that their many attractions are becoming more widely known, there is an ever increasing popular demand for them. Because of their rarity and ethereal beauty, they demand instant recognition in any garden. They have their own very distinctive color range, including white and the various tints and tones of pink, lilac, yellow, amber, bronze, green, chartreuse, pearl and opalescent, and even a warm, deep wine. Due to the numerous shades inherent, in many instances, in a single flower, it is obviously impossible to make a clear cut color delineation with any degree of accuracy and classify or list them accordingly.

You can plant them in the open or in containers which may be moved into the house for decorative purposes. For cut flowers they are unique, as the blooms on the long, graceful, curving stems will last six or seven weeks in water and the detached individual flower will last from ten days to two weeks, which makes them ideal subjects for corsages, as they can be used repeatedly and remain fresh if kept in a cool place. When you consider the cost of a single Cymbidium flower at the florist's, you will more readily appreciate the comparatively modest cost of the plant itself, which each year increases in size and floriferousness.

It is an interesting fact that many of our choicest plants are not only hardy but exceedingly simple of culture; the Cymbidiums, like exquisite butterflies, but belying their fragile appearance, are an outstanding example. These flowers are born on graceful, curving stems to three feet in height, which rise from the evergreen blades like foliage. In Southern California they can be successfully grown out of doors.

Our collection is one of the largest on the West Coast and comprises many of the finest English hybrids; a large number came from such noteworthy collections as those of the Duke of Westminster, Rothschilds and other internationally famous collectors. These afford a unique opportunity for collectors and amateurs to add to their treasures.

DIUMS

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OUR STOCK INCLUDES CROSSES FROM SUCH OUTSTANDING VARIETIES AS

Alexanderi, var. Westonbirt	F. C. C.-R. H. S.
Pauwelsii, var. Comte De Hemptinne	F. C. C.
Ceres, var. F. J. Hanbury	F. C. C.-R. H. S.
Lyoth, var. Tuftons	F. C. C.-R. H. S.
Cremona, var. Black Prince	F. C. C.
Profusion, var. Violaceum	A. M.-R. H. S.
Susette, var. Perfection	A. M.-R. H. S.
Claudette, var. Invicta	
Pearl, var. Magnificum	F. C. C.-R. H. S.
Caprice, var. Rolunda	
Pauwelsii, var. Colbury House	
Veronique, var. Bullfinch	
Swallow, var. Perfection	
Carisbrooke, var. Brilliance	F. C. C.-R. H. S.
Alexanderi, var. Old Rose	
President Wilson, var. Westonbirt	A. M.-R. H. S.
Vesta, var. Rosy Morn	
Claudette, var. Golden Glory	
Ruskin, var. Colbury House	
Pauwelsii, var. The King	
Rio Rita, var. Radiant	F. C. C.-R. H. S.
Profusion, var. Constellation	
Cremona, var. Indian Prince	A. M.-R. H. S.
Louis Sander, var. Rosy Morn	

Cymbidium

Culture

The two essential conditions in orchid culture are location and soil. Any situation affording filtered sunlight is adequate, such as that provided by lath or spreading trees whose branches are not too close to the ground. As to the soil: a mixture of from 60% to 75% coarse leafmold and the remainder a good sandy loam or decomposed granite is recommended. Perfect drainage is requisite if one is to grow Cymbidiums successfully. Keep them reasonably moist during the growing season (April-September), and thereafter reduce the amount of water in order to encourage the maximum bloom. Do not over-fertilize them; a weak liquid solution made from dairy manure, which has been soaked in water for two or three weeks, may be applied three times a year (May 15th, July 1st, and August 15th). Plant so that the pseudo bulbs are at surface level and keep a good mulch of plain leafmold on the bed when planted out.

Cymbidiums are not particularly sensitive to cold, withstanding a temperature of twenty-five degrees in perfect safety and even as low as twenty-four degrees in the coastal regions. Also, they are comparatively free from pests.

With a balanced selection of early, medium and late blooming varieties, their period of bloom may be extended from October through April. The blooms on the plant retain their perfection of vitality and color from eight to ten weeks; the cut blossoms will last about 10 days and are, therefore, in great demand for corsages and flower arrangements.

If the above simple instructions are followed, you will be amply rewarded with these graceful orchids which spell magic in any garden, patio or indoors.

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COOLIDGE

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